

Statehouse Update

January 2023

From the Office of State Representative Mary Lightbody
House District 4 | 614-466-4847 <><> Rep04@ohiohouse.gov

Dear Neighbor,

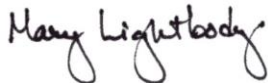
Happy New Year! I hope you and your family had a wonderful, healthy holiday season with family, friends, and new cherished memories. As we begin 2023, I could not be more excited to continue to serve our community in the Ohio House of Representatives. This year is filled with opportunity to work together and deliver results for the People of Ohio.

On January 3, I was proud to be sworn in in the Ohio House chamber as state representative for Ohio House District 4. As your voice in the state legislature, I promise to work hard for you and your family every single day. At the top of my to do list is working with interested parties on bills related to education that I plan to reintroduce in this General Assembly. I am excited to share updates on legislation, committee work, and more in the weeks to come. In the meantime, my office is happy and ready to help you with any state related issue or just to listen to your thoughts about state government. I would be glad to learn about any policy change that would address a problem or issue in our community or in the work that you do.

With a new Speaker of the Ohio House and new colleagues on both sides of the aisle, I am more optimistic than ever about the future of our state. Ohioans have faced great challenges in the last few years and 2023 will be no different. But, I am confident that we can work side by side to create better lives and brighter futures for everyone in this state.

Please do not hesitate to contact my office with any questions, comments or concerns.

Sincerely,



Mary Lightbody
State Representative
Ohio House District 4



Ceremonial Swearing-In

Please join me for an in-district swearing-in ceremony event during the New Albany City Council meeting on **Tuesday, January 17, 2023.**

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Location: Village Hall,
99 W. Main Street
New Albany, OH 43054

I work for you.

Please contact my office at any time:

Office: 614-466-4847

NEW Email:
Rep04@ohiohouse.gov

Open Office Hours

I invite you to join me for my first open office hours for 2023. I look forward to meeting with you. There is no RSVP needed. Please contact my office if you would prefer a private meeting.

❖ **Monday, January 23, 2023**

5:00 p.m. – 6:15 p.m.

New Albany Library, Meeting Room 2
200 Market St, New Albany, OH 43054



This Martin Luther King Jr. Day, we must recommit, as Ohioans, to creating a more just, equitable society through action.

“The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends towards justice.”

Legislative Update

House Bill 554, legislation that I joint sponsored by Rep. Adam Bird (R-New Richmond) has been signed into law. It simplifies the pathway for former teachers to return to the classroom in Ohio. It will work towards alleviating Ohio's teacher shortage and provide students with instruction from teachers with significant relevant workplace experience both inside and outside the classroom. Teachers who leave for other professions or put their careers on hold to care for children or family members retain the years of training that they undertook to obtain their license in the first place. I am glad that my colleagues agreed to enact this policy which provides opportunities for these well qualified teachers to return to the classroom after time away.

This law will enable teachers to renew their license with any applicable endorsements and return to the classroom while concurrently completing either 18 continuing education units (180 contact hours) or 6 semester hours of coursework.

The Senate Primary and Secondary Education adopted several unrelated amendments into the final bill. HB 554 will go into effect in April.

Diaper Changing Station Grant

Columbus City Council has created a diaper changing station grant program to increase equal access to diaper changing stations in small businesses and organizations for all parents and guardians in the City of Columbus.

Columbus businesses and organizations are now eligible to apply for 1-3 changing stations between now and March 31, 2023 in order to receive them by June 18, 2023 (Father's Day).

The application and more information is available at <https://www.columbus.gov/changingstation/>

National Glaucoma Awareness Month

January is National Glaucoma Awareness Month. According to the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#), about 3 million Americans have glaucoma. It is the second leading cause of blindness worldwide. Glaucoma is an eye disease that causes loss of sight by damaging the optic nerve. Those with glaucoma begin to lose patches of vision, usually peripheral vision.

The Ohio Affiliate of Prevent Blindness is offering a wide variety of free resources to help glaucoma patients and their caregivers find the support they need to address the many aspects of the eye disease. You can find fact sheets on glaucoma as well as other vision/eye health and safety fact sheets on their website. [Eye and Vision Health Fact Sheets to Download, Read and Print - Prevent Blindness Ohio](#)

Early detection and treatment can help save your vision from glaucoma.

The Anniversary of Roe v. Wade

January 22nd

January 22nd is the Anniversary of the landmark Roe v. Wade decision. Though this decision was overturned in 2022, reproductive rights and access to high quality healthcare, especially for women in their reproductive years remains a priority to me.

Holocaust Memorial Day

January 27th

January 27 is Holocaust Memorial Day. As we remember the millions of lives lost, we must honor their lives by continuing to fight for equality and justice, especially by condemning the rise in hateful, anti-Semitic action and rhetoric.

Radon Awareness Month

Get a FREE radon test kit!



Photo: Ohio Department of Health

Radon is the number one cause of lung cancer for non-smokers and the number two cause of lung cancer for smokers. January is Radon Awareness Month and the State of Ohio provides free radon test kits. You can order yours at ohio.radon.gov.